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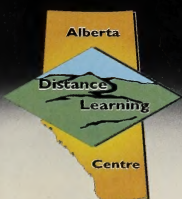
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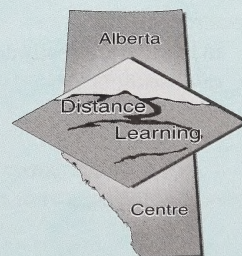
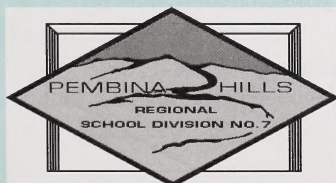


Glossary

English 10-1

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Glossary



Glossary Of Literary Terms

Act

a major division of a play (Shakespearean drama is normally of five acts; modern is usually three or less.)

Allegory

fictional prose or poetry in which a strong thesis is developed by characters representing abstract qualities (extended metaphor)

Alliteration

repetition of initial sounds in two or more words of a phrase, sentence, or line of poetry (see assonance, consonance)

Slowly, silently now the moon walks the night in her silver shoon

Allusion

reference to a historical, literary, or mythical person or event, often used as part of a simile or metaphor

I'd rather be a pagan suckled in a creed outworn/ and hear old Triton blow his wreathed horn...

Ambiguity

having two or more meanings, which produce confusion or invite new thoughts

Anecdote

a brief story often used to make or illustrate a point

Antagonist

the character in a work of fiction opposed to the protagonist; those forces or circumstances opposed to the protagonist (antagonistic forces)

Anthology

a collection of literature (usually in a book, but may be CD)

Apostrophe

in literature, directly addressing an object, animal, or absent person

Aside

a character's deliberate comment, usually brief, heard by the audience but unheard by other characters on stage

Assonance

repetition of vowel sounds in accented syllables (specific form of alliteration)

"Till her blood was frozen slowly."

Atmosphere

the tone of a literary composition or mood (feeling) created by the author, indicating the attitude of the writer towards his material

Audience

in literature, the person(s) to whom the person speaks or to whom the author directs the work

Autobiography

a story of a person's life written or told by himself (herself)

Ballad

short, narrative poem with repetitive form (Folk ballad is usually anonymous, sung, colloquial, heavily dependent on dialogue and repetition. Literary ballad is more complex to present a particular effect or theme.)

Biography

a story of a person's life written or told by another

Blank verse

unrhymed iambic pentameter—five 'feet' of unstressed followed by stressed syllables (especially Shakespeare)

- / - / - / - / - /
Show me \ a mis \ tress that \ is pass \ ing fair

Cacophony

use of unpleasant, discordant sounds for particular effects (see euphony)

Camera angle

the direction or position from which a picture is taken

Character foils

[see foils]

Cite

make a direct quotation or direct reference

Cliché

trite, worn-out phrase or idea to which fresh, active responses are seldom possible

Climax

the high point, most exciting point, and/or turning point of a story

Clustering

a prewriting strategy in which details relating to a concept are placed around it; also called mind mapping or webbing

Collage

a composition of images, often clippings glued to a paper, typically to illustrate a theme or concept

Comedy

a play in which the character accomplishes his goals

Comic relief

a humorous scene designed to ease tension temporarily in a serious play

Complication

the incident (or series of incidents) that leads from the initial incident to the climax; also rising action

Conflict

in fiction, the struggle between opposing persons or forces that constitutes the essential element of plot

Connotation

suggestions, associations, or overtones beyond literal meaning, especially of words or phrases

Consonance

repetition of initial consonant sounds (specific form of alliteration)

Context

any aspect of a communication situation influencing interpretation or creation of text

Couplet

a unit of two lines of poetry, usually rhymed

Deductive

a form of thinking or presentation that begins with a generalization that is then supported by individual observations

Denotation

the literal (dictionary) meaning of a word

Dénouement

the conclusion of the plot; the outcome of the action together with any explanations necessary

Dialogue

conversation among characters in story or play

Diction

the choice of words and the manner of their arrangement peculiar to an author

Dilemma

a situation offering a choice between two alternatives, often equally undesirable

Dramatic irony

a difference between what the audience knows to be true and what the character perceives to be true

Dramatic monologue

a poem in which a single speaker addresses an obvious silent listener intending to achieve a particular purpose and in the process reveals his own character and motives

Dynamic character

a character who changes or develops during a story, play, or novel

Editing

the process of identifying and modifying structural errors in writing, such as punctuation, grammar, and spelling

Elegy

a lyric poem of sorrow; praise for the dead

Epic

a long poetic narrative concerned with the histories of heroic characters engaged in important actions

Euphony

pleasant sounds achieved through selection of words; harmonious, musical quality of language

Exposition

usually the beginning portion of the story introducing the characters, setting the tone, and providing necessary details to understand the following action

Fable

a short allegorical story that teaches a lesson, often with talking animals as characters

Falling action

the portion of the plot that leads from climax to outcome/denouement

Figurative language

language that conveys meaning by explicit or implicit comparisons

First-person point of view

narration in which a character tells his or her own story; sometimes called narrator-participant point of view

Flat character

a character with one dominant trait that governs his actions; relatively simple in comparison to round characters

Foils

characters contrasting strongly in similar circumstances; character foils

Foreshadowing

an indication of events to come, intended to prepare audience for later events or conclusion

Free verse

poetry not using rhyme or regularized rhythm

Genre

a type of category, especially of literature (such as drama, essay, poetry, fables, novel, short story)

High-angle shot

a camera shot in which the camera is placed above the subject

Hyperbole

exaggeration for emphasis of serious or humorous effect

Idea

in literature, a thought or attitude about a concept, usually expressed in a sentence

Imagery

any figure of speech or description that helps the reader imaginatively see, feel, taste, hear, smell, or experience

Inductive

a form of thinking or presentation that begins with individual observations and leads to a conclusion

Interpretive fiction

stories intended to provide complex views of human nature or society

Irony

a difference between what exists and what was expected

- (a) verbal irony – a difference of the apparent and the real meanings of a statement
- (b) situational (structural) irony - sharp contrast of events or situations
- (b) dramatic irony - a situation in which the audience understands the significance of words or actions more fully than the characters perceive

Line

in visual communication, the deliberate use of specific qualities of lines, curves or angles to achieve a desired effect

Low-angle shot

a camera shot in which the camera is placed low in relation to the subject

Maxim

a saying or precept, often a cliché; a rule of conduct

Memoir

an autobiographical piece of writing, focusing upon specific events or times rather than total lifetime

Metaphor

an implied comparison of some quality of two diverse objects, thoughts, actions

Meter

the pattern of stressed and unstressed syllables in poetry, described in terms of the basic unit of the pattern, the foot

- (a) iambus (- ')
- (b) trochee (' -)
- (c) dactyl (' - -)
- (d) anapest (- - ')
- (e) spondee (' ')

The number of feet per line varies from one to eight: monometer, dimeter, trimeter, tetrameter, pentameter, hexameter, heptameter, octameter. Thus a line of poetry may be iambic pentameter, trochaic hexameter, etc. Such regularity is not usually a feature of modern poetry.

Metonymy

a figure of speech describing one thing by referring to another closely related to it; "...whose sightless footsteps pad the floor"

Milieu

the circumstances in which someone lives or in which something occurs

Mood

the dominating impression or feeling produced in the reader or viewer

Motif

a pattern or symbol that develops throughout the story, often dominating theme

Motivation

the purpose that dominates a character in fiction and gives rise to his actions

Objective point of view

involves the writer simply recording events and dialogue as if he were the news camera

Ode

a lyric poem praising someone (or something), often using apostrophe

Omniscient point of view

the point of view in fiction in which the author is inside the mind of any of his characters at will; existing everywhere

Onomatopoeia

the use of words whose sounds duplicate those of the action or object described (*crash, bang, boom*)

Oxymoron

the combination of two sharply contrasting descriptive terms into a single meaningful phrase ("visible darkness"; "sweet sorrow")

Paradox

linking of apparently contradictory terms in a single statement that has truth

Persona

an artificial and often nameless character (speaker) created by a poet; any artificial character presenting an author's ideas publicly

Personal Essay

an essay characterized by personal experience, informal language, and often journalistic style

Personification

a figure of speech giving human characteristics to animals, concepts, or things

Plagiarism

the use of another's work as if it were one's own; theft of literary property

Plot

a plan of action in narrative and drama containing a conflict and its resolution; the events of the story

Point of view

the perspective from which the story is told, usually narrator participant, limited omniscient, or omniscient

Protagonist

the central character trying to overcome obstacles to reach a goal

Pun	a play upon meanings or similar sounds of words or expressions	Script	in drama, the written characters' speeches, stage directions, and scene information
Quatrain	a distinct group of four lines of poetry	Setting	the physical background to a story; environment of the characters
Resolution	the diffusing of a story's tensions and problems after the climax; the falling action	Simile	a direct comparison among objects, people, or ideas, usually using "like" or "as"
Retrospective point of view	a writer's position of looking back of earlier events or situations from some identifiable present situation; for example, a story of someone returning to place of childhood and recalling events	Soliloquy	a speech by a character alone on stage revealing his/her thoughts
Rhetorical Question	a question with obvious yes or no answer, asked for effect and not actual response	Sonnet	lyric poem of 14 lines <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Italian (Petrarchan) - octave (two groups of four lines) posing a question or situation, followed by sestet (two groups of three lines) answering it (b) Shakespearean (Elizabethan) - three quatrains presenting a situation followed by a couplet giving a summary or commentary
Rhyme	similar or identical sounds in two or more words, usually the last words of poetic lines (masculine rhyme—final, accented syllables, "girl / swirl"; feminine rhyme—last two syllables, accented then unaccented, "student" / "prudent")	Stanza	two or more lines of poetry unified by meter, rhyme, thought, or all of these
Rhyme scheme	order or pattern of rhymes in a poem, usually lettered as <i>abba</i> , for example	Static character	character who remains largely unchanged throughout a story
Rhythm	in poetry, the pattern of stressed and unstressed syllables; in prose, the usual rise and fall of the voice suggested by natural pauses and punctuation	Stock character	stereotypical character, found repeatedly in literature; usually static and flat
Rising action	the complication of action between the initial incident and the climax in a story	Suspense	uncertainty resulting from conflict; the desire to know the outcome of actions for characters who have aroused our interest
Round character	a complex character whose actions are often changed by circumstances; usually capable of development	Style	an author's manner of writing, usually marked by choice of words and distinct patterns of expression; contributes significantly to tone
Rubric	a set of descriptors of expectations, often accompanied by evaluation categories and scores	Symbol	an object used to refer to an idea; a word, phrase, object, or action that has significance beyond that suggested by the context

Text

any work of literature—print, film, visual, oral, multimedia

Textbox

on a page or screen, a box including a brief explanation, such as definitions or tips

Theme

the unifying idea underlying a literary work, especially fiction and poetry, expressed in a thematic statement; sometimes used to mean a general idea or category

Thesis

a writer's stated idea; the main point of an essay or non-fiction; also called contention or controlling purpose

Tone

the attitude of the author toward his subject, indicated by the diction, rhythm, and other matters of style and structure

Topic sentence

a sentence that deliberately states the main idea of a paragraph

Tragedy

A play in which the main character does not achieve his desired goals

Turning point


especially in Shakespearean tragedy, a point often of high tension when the audience realizes the protagonist cannot succeed

Verbal irony

irony in which the intended meaning of statements is different than the stated meaning

Voice

in writing, the personal and recognizable style of a writer



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